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The Chat Room (CEPS Newsletter)

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The Chat Room

College of Education and Professional Studies Newsletter

Table of Contents

• Vision in Ghana	Pg. 1- 2
• Middle Level Literacy	Pg. 3 - 4
• EIU Professor in Brazil	Pg. 5
• Class Notes	Pg. 6
• Special Ed. Scholarships	Pg. 7

Got News?



Tell us about your professional lives! See pg. 6 for details.

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Vision in Ghana

Volunteering with Unite for Sight has been a rewarding experience for Laura Boldig, a senior Health Studies major with a concentration in community health and health communications. Boldig stayed in Accra Ghana for May and June of 2012. She worked with doctors, nurses, and other volunteers through Charity Eye Center and Save the Nations Sight Clinic. For clients who were not able to make it to the city for eye care, Boldig and colleagues provided eye care by driving three hours some days to set up a station in a distant town or village. They offered glasses, medications, and even referred people for surgery. Traveling throughout Ghana, Boldig met many wonderful people and grew from the rich experience. "I learned that I could survive on my own," said Boldig.



Laura Boldig with children in Ghana

Continue on page 2

Vision in Ghana

Continued from page 1



Boldig kept an open mind for eye care when traveling to Ghana because of the preparation she received at EIU. Two classes in particular, Communication in Health Professions and Principles of Human Health, gave Boldig the basic fundamentals on communication and health, respectively, so that she may know how to interact with different types of people. In her Community Health Behavior Methods class, Boldig learned how to assess people from different communities to provide the best eye care. She also learned how to identify patient barriers in class with Dr. Elizabeth Gill. “I used previous knowledge and applied it to people in need in Africa,” said Boldig. Combining all she has learned, Boldig built off those fundamentals to adjust and excel in Ghana.



Boldig and colleagues

Now that Boldig is Unite for Sight’s campus representative at EIU, Boldig is doing her part to share her experience. The trip has impacted her professional self so much that she is attempting to inform other students, and get people interested in the organization. “I’m hoping to recruit people from EIU so they can start a chapter here,” said Boldig. “It would be cool to have a group of students go experience it, and come back.” Boldig has already given presentations this semester to her health studies classes.

For more information, contact Laura Boldig at lkboldig@eiu.edu

Middle Level Literacy

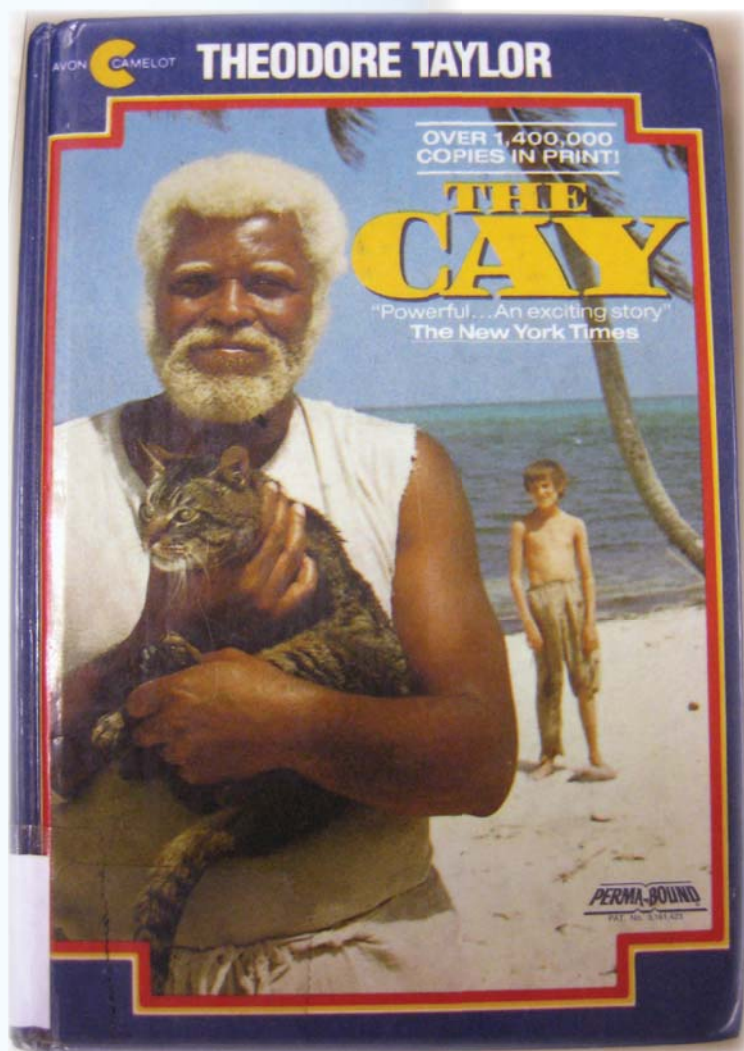
A collaborative project between Mattoon Middle School and EIU has been unfolding to give students a more meaningful educational experience. Linda Sherwood, an instructor in the Elementary

Education department at EIU, and Eddie Williams, a '09 EIU alumnus and a sixth grade reading teacher at Mattoon Middle School, have formed a literacy project where students from both sites read the same book, answer questions, and meet at the end of the semester.

This semester, the book is The Cay by Theodore Taylor. "This book covers such themes as diversity, adversity, and adventure all entwined with historical fiction," said Sherwood. Once a week, Williams asks his students questions about the different story elements in the book. The sixth graders answer those questions and sign their papers with numbers rather than their names. Their papers go to the EIU students to grade, and each EIU student is paired with two or three specific middle school students.

The college juniors and seniors from EIU gain real-world experience through this project. They find out what types of books are used at the middle level and they learn how to present the book so that middle

school students can get engaged with the story. The middle school students, on the other hand, are pushed to think more extensively with each answer. "The college students give really good feedback to



The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Conintue on page 4

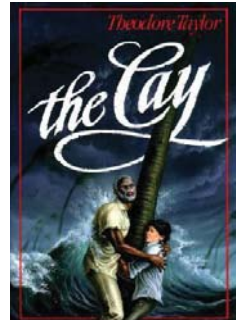
“Experiencing what the classroom teacher does on a daily basis is an additional opportunity to further their knowledge base on how to be a better teacher.”

- Linda Sherwood

Middle Level Literacy

Continued from page 3

help the students think deeper,” said Williams. While grading, pre-service teachers review content and share possible ideas that the middle school students may not have thought of. They also comment on ways to improve sentence structure and clarity of thoughts.



At the end of the semester, the EIU students travel to Mattoon Middle School to meet their sixth grade partners. “The meet and greet is a neat experience,” said Williams. “They love it.” Students from both schools enjoy final discussions about the book. Meeting the college students helps the sixth graders make the connection between themselves and the adult world they will enter in a few years. It may even help them see themselves in college where they might not have originally planned to go.



EIU Students reading *The Cay*

EIU Professor in Brazil



Poster from Brazil about the Symposium, featuring Dr. Willardson



Dr. Willardson and Victor Matsudo

Dr. Jeff Willardson, Associate Professor of Biomechanics from Kinesiology and Sports Studies, was one of three American teachers to be invited to speak at a conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Dr. Willardson spoke at the International Symposium of Sports Science on core stability training, blood flow restricted training, and muscle fatigue. "I have never spoken to an audience that didn't have English as the primary language," said Dr. Willardson. There were translators lined across the back of the auditorium. People in the audience wore headphones and as the translations came through, they nodded their heads eagerly, listening for the next bit of interesting information. Representatives were present from Paraguay, Aruba, Columbia, Mexico, Australia, and more. Those representatives also presented over a span of three days, exploring new and important studies.

Not only did Dr. Willardson gain a lot from this symposium, but he also experienced the city, the food, the culture, and the people. On his itinerary was touring the stadium where Pele, a great Brazilian soccer player, had played, sampling exotic foods, and visiting a Mormon temple. He even made connections with published researchers. "Since I've been home, I've been asked to collaborate on three papers," said Dr. Willardson. "I also want to build a relationship with EIU and a school in Brazil. There are a few teachers from Brazil that would love to have students go from here to there." With this invitation to speak in Brazil, Dr. Willardson was able to develop as a faculty member and create a global impact on EIU.



Dr. Willardson in front of the stadium where Pele played.

Class Notes

1970s



Ken Baker '72, BSEd and '73 MEd in Physical Education, has been inducted as an honorary lifetime member of the Eastern Illinois University Foundation. He has been employed by Eastern since 1994, and recently is working to establish the Baker/Warmoth Hall of Champions at Lantz Arena.

Johnie Meisner '74, BS in Physical Education, has been inducted as a Friend of Athletics into the EIU Athletic Hall of Fame on November 10, 2012. He has voluntarily helped the athletic department since the late 1970s by assisting coaches, hosting track meets, and being a volunteer official at state meets.



Image courtesy of Sandy King

Tommy Meeks '78, BS in Physical Education, has been hosting competitions where individual athletes compete to do the best that they can in varying sports. A recent challenge was the Super Strike Competition, where contestants bowl 10 balls and attempt to get as many strikes as possible. Similar competitions have been held in basketball for 10 hoops and in softball for 10 pitches.

1980s

Mary Ann Quivey '81, BSEd in Junior High Education, has been appointed as Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools in the Monroe and Randolph counties

2000s



Image courtesy of Sandy King

Audra Frericks '05 BS and '06 MS in Physical Education, has been inducted into the EIU Athletic Hall of Fame for the achievements she earned playing on the women's soccer team from 2001 – 2004. As she ended her career, she made it to the EIU top ten for goals, assists, points, and game winning goals.

2010s

Ashley Green '10, MS in Kinesiology and Sports Studies, was promoted in November to account manager of corporate partnerships for Sporting KC, in Kansas City, Kansas.



Jessica Crackel '11, BSEd in Elementary Education, married Seth Hardy on December 15, 2012 in Mt. Carmel, IL. She is currently employed at Lancaster Christian School in Lancaster, IL.

Got News?



Are you or someone you know an Alumni of the College of Education and Professional Studies? Is there something you would like to share?

Email us at cepsnews@eiu.edu

We want to know what's going on in your professional lives!

Special Ed. Scholarships

2012 Telefund Awards

Mallory D. Kowaleski

Jennifer Heinemann

Tiffany Musselwhite

The David Glenn Coon Memorial Scholarship

Kaitlyn Michelle Gabric

The Stephen Wayne Kennard Memorial Scholarship

Jennifer Heinemann

Angela Warman

Cynthia Campos

The Iva P. Miller Special Education memorial Scholarship

Mallory D. Kowaleski

The Dr. Robert Zabka Special Education Scholarship

Kim Shambo

The Errett & Mazie Warner Special Education Scholarship

Lauren M. Hunt



Kowalski



Shambo



Campos



Heinemann



Gabric